

Amendment and Response
Attorney Docket No. 36992.00106
(previously 31192.03654)

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

In page 8, please amend the third paragraph as follows:

D3

Figure 2 illustrates a more specific embodiment of the transaction manager 100. The clients 104 are coupled to log-in manager 204 to provide to each client access to the transaction manager 100, and to allow each client 104 to designate one or more trading pit 220 to which to be connected. The transaction manager 100 hosts one or more transaction processors ~~servers~~ 200. Each transaction processor ~~server~~ 200 is responsible for the trading of a specified item, essentially supporting a specific trading pit. The summary information agents 224 for each transaction processor ~~220~~ server 200 provide a current status of the activity of each pit 220 to a trader connected to the log-in manager 204. The trader can select a pit 220 to which to be connected based upon the summary information. Once the log-in process is complete, the clients 104 are coupled to a registration server 212 for the specified trading pit 220. Registration for each pit 220 requires the client 104 to provide an access key that it received from the login manager 204 during log in.

In page 9, please amend the second paragraph as follows:

D4

Each pit 220 includes a transaction server 200. The transaction server 200 receives orders, matches bids and offers (when a bid and offer are matched it is called a trade or execution) and routes information to both the database 208 and the client terminals 104 connected to the trading pit 220. The client terminals 104 generate icons for bid and offer orders (called bid and offer icons), historical charts and trader icons, and determine the placement of bid and offer icons and trader icons responsive to the information received from the transaction server 200. The database 208 to which the transaction server ~~220~~ 200 is coupled stores the information corresponding to each trader, information on every order submitted over a period (such as start of trading days), information on every trade over a period (such as last 180 days) and the information

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corresponding to the item being traded. Each trader may have information associated with the trader's account stored, including a name, e-mail account, address, phone number, personal value quantifying metric or analytic activity level history, and various other information which is unique to the individual trader and which may be used by the present invention to create a virtual trading environment.

In page 13, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

D5

The trader using the client terminal 104 in accordance with the present invention, is shown all of the outstanding orders 300, 304 for the item being traded. This is one significant difference between the present invention and conventional systems because a trader using a system in accordance with the present invention is able to view trends in the bids and offers in addition to the buying and selling of the item being traded. For example, in Figure 3a, a trader can quickly analyze the outstanding orders 300, 304, and determine that there are an almost equal number of bids 300(8) as offers (9) 304(8). Thus, the trader may infer that the market is stable, and the value for the item will not be dramatically driven up or down in the near future. Accordingly, the trader may decide to take no action. However, as shown in Figure 3b, if demand builds through an increased number of bids being made, as shown by the display of an increased number of bid icons 300, or bids are being made for large quantities, as shown by the display of bid icons 300 having a greater size, and if supply recedes as indicated by the display of a reduced number of offers icons 304, the trader can anticipate that the value for the item will increase. Consequently, the trader will place bids for the currently low valued offers 304. Thus, by viewing all outstanding offer icons 304 and bid icons 300 as they are made on an item, the trader can anticipate the market and quickly adjust his or her trading plans to take advantage of the information. In contrast, in conventional systems, the trader only knows the last highest bid and the last highest lowest offer. In the example of Figure 3a, the trader would only know the existence of bid 300(9 1) and offer 304(1). Only the market maker would know of the existence of the other bids and offers. Individual traders would therefore be unaware of trends in bidding, and experience greater difficulty in anticipating the market.